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CIA Denies Giving Drug To Ex-Marine Colonel

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The Central Intelligence Agency has flatly denied that drugs or medicines were administered to a retired Marine colonel who committed suicide eight days after being screened for a job at the agency.

In three lawsuits asking a total of \$800,000 in damages filed in Norfolk, Va., Thursday, the widow and daughter of Col. James R. Christensen charged that he took his own life because of the effects of drugs administered to him by the CIA.

In a statement released late yesterday, the CIA said:

"There is no basis for the charges made against the Central Intelligence Agency by Mrs. Edith W. Christensen and Linda Ann Christensen, her daughter.

"Col. James R. Christensen was interviewed for employment by this agency in January 1966, but he was never employed and was never on the agency's roles.

"No drugs or medicines were ever administered to him at any

time during his contacts with agency officials."

According to the suits, filed by William L. Shapero, a Norfolk attorney, Christensen, who had had a distinguished career as a Marine pilot and administrative officer, returned from a job interview at the CIA on Jan. 18 suffering from the effects of drugs he said he had been given.

On Jan. 26, he parked his car at the home of a man he did not know and shot himself in the head, according to records of the Virginia Beach police.

Christensen, who was 49 at the time of his death, had been a Marine since 1938 and retired last June 30. At the time of his retirement, he was director of the joint war room of the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, in Norfolk. In the event of war, NATO fleet operations would be directed from the war room.